

June 26, 2019

Jacqueline Kurth  
Manager, Medical Resource Office  
P.O. Box 19070  
Phoenix, Arizona 85005-9070

Ms. Kurth:

Please let this letter serve as Concentra's public comments related to the proposed changes to the reimbursement guidelines for medications dispensed in settings that are not accessible to the general public.

In general, we are in support of the proposed changes to the Pharmaceutical Fee Schedule. However, we have two proposed changes that we ask be made to assure timely access to medications.

Section VII A3 states "the prescription medication is dispensed within 7 days from the date of the industrial injury". This requirement is problematic because injured workers often do not present "on the date of the industrial injury" but rather sometimes days or weeks later. The employer will not typically begin the process of filing a claim until the employee seeks medical care, and the injured worker may be unable to fill a prescription (without being charged) in a pharmacy until a claim number has been generated.

As currently worded, this item will potentially prevent those injured workers who do not seek medical attention on the date of injury from receiving medication on the date of the first treatment. This would be especially important in cases involving infections and/or the need for prophylactic antibiotics.

Consequently, we ask that the language of VII A3 be modified as follows: "The prescription medication is dispensed within 7 days from the date of first treatment." This approach is one that has been followed by other states who have limited the time frame for dispensed medications, such as Pennsylvania.

Section VIII B states "If a prescription or OTC medication is dispensed by a medical practitioner or by a pharmacy not accessible to the general public, a dispensing fee is not permitted."

This item is concerning because eliminating the \$7 dispensing fee for medications dispensed in the first seven days after the initial visit would essentially eliminate most front line primary care providers to dispense necessary and timely medication at the time of the injured worker's initial visit, as it would become cost-prohibitive.

There are costs incurred by the repackaged pharmacy that are passed on to the physician in their acquisition cost of the repackaged pharmaceutical. By eliminating the dispensing fee, the resulting fee schedule is below the acquisition costs on most drugs we dispense effectively eliminating physician dispensing in the first seven days after treatment for our business.

We would propose that this item be (1) eliminated entirely or (2) modified as follows: "If a prescription or OTC medication is dispensed by a medical practitioner or by a pharmacy not accessible to the general public a dispensing fee is not permitted, with the exception of medications dispensed within 7 days from the day of first treatment."

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations. Please let me know if you have any questions related to our proposal.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. M. Gilbert", written in a cursive style.

Greg Gilbert  
Chief Reimbursement and Government Relations Officer